

ROUNDS *with* *the* DEVIL

===== *or* =====
CUSTOMS *and*
AMUSEMENTS
=====



By

ALBERT HARRISON CROMBIE

Evangelist

1422 CHEYENNE AVE., GRAND FORKS, N. D.

GLAD TIDINGS PUBLISHING CO.

202 S. Clark Street, Chicago, Ill.

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Dedication

IT IS WITH PLEASURE THAT I DEDICATE
THIS NEW BOOK TO MY ONLY SISTER,
VENUS SNELL CROMBIE, WHO HAS BEEN,
UNCONSCIOUSLY, MY IDEAL OF YOUNG
WOMANHOOD AND WHOSE SWEET INFLU-
ENCE HAS GIVEN ME AN ADDED INCEN-
TIVE TO DELIVER THIS MESSAGE IN MY
CAMPAIGNS IN SUCH A MANNER THAT
OTHER YOUNG PEOPLE MIGHT SEE THE
FOLLY OF A LIFE WASTED IN IDLE AND
DANGEROUS AMUSEMENT, AND, THE
BEAUTY OF A CLEAN, WHOLESOME LIFE
OF CHRISTIAN INFLUENCE.

THE AUTHOR.

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Rounds With The Devil

1 Thessalonians 5: 21—"Prove all things, hold fast that which is good."

Evangelists are frequently asked questions that deal with popular customs and amusements. These questions come from three classes of people and for three separate and distinct reasons. Some people ask these questions because they seek the truth. They are the thoughtful people; those who are in the habit of studying human actions. It is a pleasure to discuss these matters with such. We hope that the majority of you who are here tonight are in that class. There are some, however, who ask us such questions because they think that in doing so they cause us to be embarrassed. They are the human nothings of the Universe, those whose brains, if placed in the shell covering of a mustard seed would have as much room to rattle around as does a BB shot in an empty rain barrel. It is our duty to talk to such. Judging from

outward appearances we would say that you people look sensible to us. Perhaps these questions come to us more frequently from people who are dissatisfied with their daily life than from all other classes combined. This class is largely composed of professing Christians who are habitually doing something that is condemned by their conscience, the Church and thinking people and who believe that peace of mind could be obtained if the Evangelist were to sanction such actions. They are the most hopeful and at the same time the most unhappy people. It is always a good sign when your conscience talks to you—it shows that you are not in as bad a spiritual condition as those whose conscience is dead. God knows that the professing Christian who does not live the life of a separated Christian is “of all men most miserable.” It is a favor indeed to be allowed to talk to such people because we know that they are the “good ground” and if seed is properly planted therein, a rich harvest will result.

We trust, however, that you whom we now face, have succeeded in settling these matters thru your confession and forsaking of the wrong and are now here only to add your influence to the forces aligned against evil; but, if you are undetermined as to which road to follow in the future, it is our earnest prayer that we may be able by the grace of God to show you the sign posts that mark the pathway that the Savior trod and which you must follow if you are to obtain peace of mind here and your reward in the hereafter. Be much in the spirit of prayer, friend, and God will show you the right thing to do. And, above everything else, resolve to accept the leading of the Spirit. It will not be enuf for you to realize tonight at the close of this service that you should forsake your sin—you must actually do that thing—or you will be no more happy tomorrow than you now are.

In our discussion tonight of some common customs and types of amusement there are certain fundamental

principles that must be laid down and kept in mind. First of all, we must understand that in discussing such a subject (or in fact, any subject) we must differentiate between the saved and the unsaved. There are, in the last analysis, just two classes of people in the World; those who have accepted Jesus Christ, God's Son, as their Savior and are therefore Christians, and, those who have never confessed their sin to God and cried unto Him for forgiveness and are still unsaved. God has ordained it that the unsaved are always under the law, whereas the Christian is under a much stronger force than the law, namely, the principle of love. Law for the unsaved; grace for the saved as a means of thought and action control. "Thou shalt not," for the unsaved and, "If ye love Me keep My commandments," for the saved. Because it is true that selfishness is the fundamental principle of sin, God does not expect the unsaved to act as do those who have been born again, altho He desires all men to come to a knowledge of the

truth, knowing that the truth makes men free. Therefore, if you are unsaved tonight, the best that you can do is think of yourself, and, if convinced that any common custom or popular amusement is liable to be detrimental to your own life, give it up. You owe it to yourself, if to no one else, to do the right thing. If however; you are a Christian, you will be required to not only think seriously of the effect of the common customs and forms of amusement upon your own life, but will be expected to think of your influence upon the lives of others as you do daily those things that are unwise. You must take into consideration the power of personal influence. Furthermore, you must ask yourself the question: "Am I glorifying the Christ who died to save me, when I do these things?" for, it is your duty, above everything else, to "glorify your Father who is in Heaven." We cannot tell by outward appearances whether a tree will produce seedless oranges or those with seeds, for the exterior appearance of both

species is much alike. Neither can we tell, in certain stages of development, whether the thing we see is a field of tares or of wheat. And, it is impossible for us to decide whether or not you people as individuals are Christians; so that it devolves upon each of you as an individual to apply that portion of truth that is applicable to your state and condition. You know whether or not you are saved—be guided by that truth that is for you.

Secondly; we must realize that the laws of cause and effect are inseparable; that wherever a bad effect results from any action that action as the cause of the effect must have been bad. Vice versa, we must remember that if any cause is bad, nothing but bad results can accrue from it. Like begets like in every case by Divine ordination. Therefore, if it is proven tonight that the general effect of any common custom or form of amusement under discussion is bad, then that bad effect must in **every case** be attributed to that

common custom or form of amusement.

Thirdly; we ask that you give us your close and undivided and unprejudiced attention. You must listen to us tonight with minds open for conviction, knowing that "A mind settled in an attitude of unbelief rejects all evidence." You must think! You can lead a horse to water but you can't make him drink and you can preach to people but you can't make them think! To preach is **our part** but **you must think** with us.

Fourthly; we are aware of the fact that we are going to be accused of being narrow in belief. We cannot help that. We are narrow. So is the road to Heaven, if Jesus knew what He was talking about! And, He did know!

Our text is a good one for tonight because it is in accord with present day practices. When you are sick and the Doctor calls on you the first thing he does is say: "Put out your tongue, please." He wants to examine all things and so, beginning with the biggest, with microscope, stethoscope, and

thermometer, with much pounding and thumping, he finally succeeds in locating the trouble and in discovering the amount of money in your pocketbook. **He** proves all things. Every large factory is equipped with testing devices of all kinds suitable to the business so that each piece of material that enters into the finished product is known to be satisfactory. **The factories** prove all things. Before the modern agriculturist (who used to be called a hayseed or a farmer) plants his corn crop in the Spring, he takes samples of his corn and plants them in a germinating device in order to ascertain as to whether or not his seed is fertile enuf for planting. **He too**, proves all things. That which is applicable in physical life, commercial life and natural life is also, in many cases, applicable in moral life. Such is the case with our subject. It is for this reason that we have chosen the words of the Apostle Paul for our text tonight: "Prove all things; hold fast that which is good." And; having answered advance questions and laid

down certain principles—having figuratively donned the boxing gloves for a round or two with the devil—let us tackle him right now by asking and answering as our first question:

IS IT WRONG TO DRESS FASHIONABLY?

You laugh! Why do you laugh? Fashionable dressing is one of the common customs of the day. In answering this question we must say that it all depends upon the meaning of the word “fashionably.” The word is hard to define for fashions depend usually upon the waist line and that line varies so much in location that it surely must be the fourth dimension mathematicians talk about! Sometimes it is up around the neck, sometimes under the arms, sometimes around the ankles and sometimes you can’t see it at all! In answering the question, therefore, we must use another word and can state that it is not wrong to dress fashionably if at the same time you are dressed **modestly.**

The tendency seems to be to dress fashionably without regard to modesty. A walk along Fifth Avenue in New York, Michigan Boulevard in Chicago, Main Street in Podunkville, or an examination of any of the style catalogues of the mail order houses will verify our statement. The main idea in the modern fashionable dress seems to be that everything should be covered but nothing concealed. Fashionable dressers wear half hose showing that they are only "half there" in the head, also! They wear peek-a-boo waists commonly and in some instances the most fashionable do not wear waists at all but are satisfied with a picture painted upon the bare back! Surely the poet was right when he said: "Little dabs of powder, little daubs of paint; make a woman look like, what she really ain't!" Short skirts are fashionable altho it is true that as the skirt goes up, the standard of morality goes down. Some skirts, those! Those fashionable balloon shaped hobble skirts remind us of the story we heard

of the sweet young thing who hobbled up to a Chicago policeman and asked him how she could get to a certain address the quickest way if she walked. The cop looked at her fashionable skirt and said: "Sister, the quickest way for you to get there if you are going to walk, is to first go home and change your skirt." Clinging, one piece, silhouette dresses, worn over the naked figure are very fashionable in some quarters. When silk costs seventeen dollars per yard you can buy enuf of the material for twelve cents to make a dress like that! An American Indian would turn black with horror if compelled to dress as do her so-called fashionable White sisters and an African Hottentot would for modesty's sake jump into the lake and say, "Here goes nothing." There is practically no difference between the dress of the four hundred and the street walker and it is time that you women learn to take down the sign if you are not in the business. No wonder that women report to their husbands that they were accosted

on the streets by strange men. "There's a reason." For God's sake, for man's sake, for your own sake, learn to dress modestly. **You** are to blame for the double standard of morality; you dress so as to appeal to the animal passions of men and then organize clubs to condemn the men and forget that **you** are the cause of the wave of prostitution that is sweeping our Nation from ocean to ocean. Prove all things; hold fast that which is good. Discard the fashionable, don the modest, for you are not what you should be. You are disgracing your Mother's modesty. Styles, fashions, forms change but modesty ever remains the same—the crowning gift of God to womankind.

Just a word about paint and powder. We believe that it is right to use paint. It has its uses—on barns and bridges but was never made to adorn the faces of human beings. Get out into God's sunshine; breathe the early morning air; exercise in the open; eat wholesome food; think clean thoughts; go to bed early and the result will be a color

in the cheek and a lustre in the eye that as far exceeds the beauty of the rouge tinted "doll" as does the genuine diamond the paste jewel. It seems that there can be no harm in a judicious use of powder. Powder so that it does not show; do not appear in public as tho you had been white washed or had accidentally fallen head foremost into the flour barrel. Use common sense with your powder if you must use powder; it makes a good mixture. There is one common custom about powdering that disgusts us. It is to see some girl walking along the street, suddenly stop, open up her little vanity case and in plain view of the public, daub her petite nose with powder in much the same way as a duckling primps after a bath in a mud puddle! You look silly when you do it and you **are** silly. Be sensible. "Whatsoever you do, do to the glory of God." Prove all things; hold fast that which is good.

The next question for our consideration is:

IS IT WRONG TO PLAY CARDS?

This question can best be answered in one word, **yes**. The card pack is the devil's Bible. Ever since cards were invented by a criminal to amuse the imbecile son of a King, men have been led downward by them and our penitentiaries and prisons are filled today with those whose downfall can be traced definitely to the card table. It makes no difference whether you play cards in your own home, a friend's home, a club, a Church building or a brothel, you are doing wrong. Cards are the recognized means in the game of chance. Most of the gambling is done today with the card pack. It is true that people **can** gamble with checkers and chess but the fact remains that it is not a common practice. When men want to gamble they turn naturally to the filthy deck.

Card playing wastes brain power, time and talent that should otherwise be employed. If you are a professing Christian, we ask you: "How can you

spend so much of your time playing friendly games of cards when multitudes around you are crying for the Gospel story of Jesus?" There is one sure thing about it, friend, if you are a card player you are not a Bible reader or a prayer meeting leader that amounts to anything. We venture that you read mail order catalogues more than you do your Bible and that a long handled broom would sweep most of your prayers from the Church ceiling.

You say that you play cards in your Church building; that your Church sanctions card playing. Sure, so does the devil sanction it and is satisfied **wherever** you play! He is interested in **results**, not in **methods**. It is just as much of a crime before God for you to win a booby prize at a Church or society card party as to fleece a fellow man out of a thousand dollars in the back room of some nearby pool hall. And by the way, we have no more use for the modern pool hall than we had for the old fashioned saloon. Pool halls

are inventions of the devil and in them two million young men of America waste their time playing five million games of pool each day and waste in addition to their time, money that should be either saved for the future or spent for the necessities of life. Christians are opposed to pool halls, too. If you want to be a criminal, for God's sake be a brave one; go out and with a sand bag, hit some one over the head and then pick his pocket in broad daylight; don't wait to do it over a club or Church or family card table.

A card playing woman is a menace to decent society. Such creatures usually fondle dogs instead of children and are more afraid of **dishwater** than the devil is of **holy water**. You say you belong to society. Yes, you do, you belong to **sassiety** where there is more sass than sense!

Someone says: 'Well, my boy will learn some place and will play cards somewhere, so I let him play at home with his friends where I can watch him.'

You are entitled to a leather medal for making an excuse like that! Prove all things; friend! If you have no more control over your family than that, then may God have mercy on your children. If your boy told you that he felt as though he should commit adultery because his friends were doing so, we suppose that you would bring a prostitute into your home! Be sensible, be reasonable! It is **your** duty to do right regardless of what any one else does and if your children disobey you and do play cards outside of your home, you can at least pray **for** them. That is more than you can do when you play **with** them. Put your foot down; show your parental authority; reason with your family and then, if your children deliberately disobey you, remember that you are guiltless before God. "Spare the rod and spoil the child" is as true today as ever. Spank that young son of yours if you have to and don't do it on a full stomach—turn him over. Card players do not succeed as soul winners. Prove all things; hold fast

that which is good.

We noticed some of you men laughing when we were talking to the ladies about fashions. Perhaps this next question will not provide as much amusement for you. It is:

IS IT WRONG TO USE TO- BACCO?

Yes it is wrong and it makes no difference who you are. It is wrong because it is physically wrong. One pound of ordinary tobacco contains three hundred and twenty grains of nicotine and it is a well attested fact that **three** grains of nicotine will kill a cat. And, don't forget that a cat has nine lives! Therefore, taking these figures as a basis, if you use tobacco in any form, all you have to do is write down the amount of tobacco you use each day and figure out what cat power you are and you will be able to tell exactly when your wife will have to call the undertaker and put on mourning weeds! Tobacco is a deadly poison. Its

effect upon the heart is most disastrous. The pulse of a tobacco user beats seventeen times per minute faster than that of an ordinary man. What does that mean? Only that the most vital organ in the human body must take **twenty-four thousand** extra beats per day in order to keep the blood flowing. It is for this reason that all leading life insurance companies instruct their examining Physicians to ascertain the amount of tobacco the applicant uses and many companies reject habitual users of the weed. Can you as a professing Christian longer continue to use that which is abusive to the body, knowing that your body is the dwelling place of The Holy Spirit of God?

Tobacco is so filthy and its use so unnatural that hogs won't eat it, cows do not chew it and monkeys have to be compelled to taste it! In fact, the only animal that will use it at all is the goat but he also eats tin cans and circus posters! It must be nice for a wife to have to receive a kiss from her Lord

and Master whose long moustache leaks tobacco juice in streams like an eave trough after a summer shower! A girl who keeps company with a tobacco user now will have no right to refuse to clean spittoons for him later! Think, girls! A tobacco user does not smell bad—he stinks. A skunk was once upon a time under an old barn. Several boys were unsuccessful in their attempts to get him out. But as soon as a cigarette smoker crawled in under the barn, the skunk came out, wobbled around for a moment or two and then died. No, he was not shot! The odor of the cigarette was too much for him!

Tobacco is a deadly poison to bugs and practically all insecticides are composed chiefly of it. If you call yourself a Christian and use tobacco, you are a **humbug** and you will find that it will be the death of your Spirituality and Christian influence. There is one creature in addition to man that uses tobacco. It is that long, green, crawling, thousand-legged, slimy, smooth, slip-

pery **worm** of the Southland. He eats it because he likes it!

It may be possible for a tobacco user to be a Christian but if he is, he is as Sam Jones once said "a dirty one" and we think that he will have to go to hell to spit if he ever tries to use it in heaven. The use of tobacco is contrary to the Divine plan, for, if the Almighty had planned for man to use tobacco we would have been born with smokestacks on the sides of our heads and spittoons hanging under our chins! Prove all things; hold fast that which is good.

The cigarette is the most dangerous form in which tobacco may be used. Every cigarette contains five kinds of poison. One in the wrapper, one in the flavor and the other three are nicotine, saltpetre and opium. The same ingredients go into the ordinary cigarette that the undertaker uses in embalming the dead. It is for that reason that they are rightfully called "coffin nails." There is nothing more ridiculous in God's

universe to look upon than a College student walking along the street puffing a cigarette, for cigarettes kill the very nerve cells in the human brain that produce thought. Cigarettes and brains do not go together. The best definition of a cigarette that we know is, "It is a little piece of paper with a little bit of tobacco rolled up in it, with a little fire at one end and a little fool at the other." As loyal American citizens, true to the flag and God, we must state that we feel humiliated and disgraced every time we see a man in the Army uniform or in Naval garb with a cigarette between his lips. Is it not possible for our Soldiers and Sailors to be clean, manly men—men who set the highest standard for others—men whose very appearance of cleanliness brings forth a cheer of approval from the thinking people of America? Cigarette smoking should be prohibited by the United States Government, at least so far as the Soldiers and Sailors are concerned; and we are proud to state that we are from North Dakota where

Constitutional prohibition has always been in force and where it is a crime to sell cigarettes or to give cigarette papers away. Take off your hat to the best State in the Union. Thank you!

The use of tobacco is wrong because it is financially wrong. One billion, two hundred millions of dollars are spent annually for tobacco in its varied forms in the United States and yet some so-called Christians declared that the Church of Jesus Christ was asking for too much money in the Inter-Church drive when she asked for only three hundred and thirty-seven million, which is only one-third of the amount spent yearly for tobacco in the United States and the money for the Church was to cover a period of five years. Let me repeat it, let me quote these facts again which deal with sums of money so stupendous that they baffle human thought and imagination. **One billion, two hundred millions of dollars are spent annually for tobacco in its varied forms in the United States and yet**

some so called Christians declared that the Church of Jesus Christ was asking too much when she asked for three hundred and thirty-seven million dollars in the Inter-Church drive. Remember that the amount asked by the Church of the Living God in that drive was only one-third of the sum spent for tobacco in the United States every year and that the money for the Church was to cover a period of five years—not one year! Think of it! Citizens of the United States spending enough money each year for tobacco to support the whole Protestant Church of America, including her foreign mission activities, for a period of fifteen years! And yet, you ask, “Is it wrong to use tobacco?” Every crossroads corner in the United States seems to contain a poster advertising some form of tobacco. The money spent each year in advertising tobacco is sufficient to carry the Gospel of Jesus Christ to every tribe of people in God’s great world, and yet you ask, “Is it wrong to use tobacco?” For a real Christian there can be but one

answer—**Yes**, and if you are a real Christian, the right kind of an one, you will not even sell it in your place of business or handle it in any way. You will have absolutely nothing to do with it.

It is the boast of the tobacco manufacturers that within the next three years a sack of tobacco and a package of cigarette papers will be placed free in the hands of every Chinese boy above the age of ten. Talk about this being a Christian Nation! Talk about our efforts to show the Chinese the evils of foot binding while at the same time we are teaching them a habit that will bind their very souls! Talk about the devil being dead! Talk about the resolutions of the liquor dealers of the past to ruin the youth of this great Nation; it is not to be compared with the aim of the tobacco manufacturers of today who would send to hell every man and boy, every woman and girl in the wide world in order to satisfy that insatiable craving for the almighty dollar. The time has come when the thinking men

and women of the World must realize that the tobacco trust is a giant octopus whose many arms are even now encircling the youth of every Nation and unless destroyed soon, the human race will become enslaved to a habit that cannot be broken. It will become a slave to an abnormal appetite—our bellies will be our gods!

From the standpoint of dollars and cents let us further notice that the use of tobacco is wrong because it is a waste of money to the individual. A man who uses two twenty-five cent cigars per day smokes up, in fifty years, eleven thousand, four hundred and sixty-nine dollars. That is the sum he would have had if the money had been drawing interest in the bank as deposited daily. Beginning at the age of fifteen, if you will deposit in your local bank each day, the amount the average young smoker spends for cigarettes or cigars, when you reach the age of sixty you will be able to retire and live on the income of the money and drive a six

cylinder car and enjoy good health. Most cigarette smokers use more than ten cigarettes per day, but if only that many are used, it would be a loss of money for any manufacturing concern to employ you and allow you to smoke during working hours. It takes three minutes to roll, light and smoke each cigarette. Smoking ten per day at that rate, you cost the company fifty cents per day if your daily wage is at the rate of one dollar per hour. If a company were to employ a thousand such men, its loss would be five hundred dollars per day. It is for this reason that practically all great manufacturing concerns prohibit cigarette smoking during working hours.

You men expect the girls to give up the dance as soon as they learn its harm; you have no respect for an immodestly dressed woman; you are disgusted whenever you see a female smoking (those of the fair sex who use tobacco are not women, just females); now, will you do your part, will you

give up yourself that which *you know* is wrong? Be a man! Discard the harmful.

Having settled some of the other questions, let us take our next round with the devil by answering the question:

IS IT WRONG TO ATTEND THE MOVIES?

We have chosen to answer the question concerning the moving picture show rather than the Opera or other performance put on in the theatre because the average Christian already knows that the theatre is no place for him, whereas the detrimental effects of the moving picture show have not as yet been revealed as clearly. This is because the common movie is of a more recent origin and it takes years of patient work to so arouse the public conscience as to remove the offending custom or amusement. Such was the case with liquor. Prohibition came not in a moment; but only after years of pa-

tient, aggressive work and prayer on the part of that noble organization: "The Woman's Christian Temperance Union." And right here allow us to remark that the battle against the demon, rum, will have been fought in vain unless we as a Nation enforce the laws most stringently and fight every attempt to change the licensed alcoholic content of beer and light wine. Let us not only keep this Nation absolutely dry but work and pray for World freedom from the most damnable of all curses—the liquor traffic. Reverting again to this subject of the moving picture show, we call your attention to the fact that this is the most difficult of all questions to answer satisfactorily, not only because the public conscience has not yet become aroused, but because the great majority of Americans are either habitual or occasional patrons of the movie and to condemn the movie means that we condemn that which is sanctioned by the majority of people. But, the fact that the majority has sanctioned the movie does not make the

movie a good institution, because in many instances it has been proven later on in history that the minority was right although unable to prove it at the time. Having promised God to stand for Him in **every** case we cannot afford to compromise with sin in any form and in as much as we believe the movie to be dangerous, we shall answer the question: "Is it wrong to attend the movies?" in the affirmative; just as we have answered the other questions.

We believe it is wrong to attend the movies because the scenarios are not true to life. Where the plays are produced, all is sham. The actors and actresses wear paste jewels, their clothes are of the cheapest in quality, and the scenery is imitation. Those of you who have been reading the articles in "The Saturday Evening Post" will know that this is true and just recently in "The People's Magazine" we saw four pages of colored photographs showing how the movie people fake scenery and manufacture it after photographs.

Most of the fine scenes that you gaze upon with wonder at the movie are at the best but cheap imitations of the real. Why spend time and money patronizing the movie when that which is shown is not real? The reel is not real!

It is wrong to patronize the movies because most of the scenarios are suggestive. The moving picture producing companies have learned that the public wants the cheap show. If you do not believe this, walk down Clark street in Chicago and you will see multitudes entering the cheap theatre. It is so in every City. It is human nature to want to see that which should not be seen. While walking down a street in Chicago not long ago, I saw a window coated with white paint. At first I thought the store was vacant but soon I discovered that there was a small round hole on the glass that was not covered with the paint. Over that hole was the statement, "For men only." As I stood on that sidewalk watching the passing throng I saw that most of the

people stopped and peeked into that little hole. Finally, **my** curiosity was so aroused that I, too, looked and saw a fine display of dollar safety razors! That storekeeper knew human nature! At the University of North Dakota a few years ago a great outdoor celebration was held. Each class and organization put on a show of some kind. One class had a tent located in a rather out-of-the-way place on the campus with a sign over it: "Swimming match between two of the most popular young ladies." And practically the whole tribe of men visitors paid ten cents to see a common safety match floating in a washtub between two fully dressed, modest girls! Of course it was a joke on the crowd but it shows that the public wants to see the spectacular and indecent. The reason this building is packed and jammed to the doors tonight is because **you people** thought that we would say things out of the ordinary! Whenever a large crowd is expected in a City the movie men always advertise something that is rare

and racy. The movie men have learned that to fill their houses they need only promise to expose birth control, to show real pictures of the harems of Turkey or portray a raid upon a red light district.

Nine tenths of the shows in America today are indecent. You say that we do not know what we are talking about? While conducting a campaign in a leading City in Kansas we made an investigation of the movies shown there, for we were told that all shows were of the highest type. What did we find? In the leading theatre of the City in one show alone we saw two very vivid bedroom scenes. We saw men and women dressed in sleeping garments and one woman shown in her bed had her gown practically off, showing her naked body! We saw one woman leaning over a screen in a room, talking to a man and her clothing was unseen. Her body to the waist was bare! When the movies showed a woman dancing, the pictures were enlarged so that only the

dancers legs and waist were shown upon the screen. Why? So that the imagination of the audience might better be satisfied. So that the passions of the men in the audience might better be stirred into a flaming fire of uncontrollable lust. Such scenes were not shown alone in that one theatre. We have seen such things wherever we have gone to investigate the moving picture shows. In South Dakota we were mobbed because a returned Soldier, who was a disgrace to that noble Army of men, was not allowed to put on a show exposing birth control while we were in a certain City holding a campaign. So insistent was the public to see that show that a second attempt to give it resulted in a riot, with the consequence that several were bound over to the District Court charged with inciting a riot in the State of South Dakota. We repeat: nine tenths of the shows in America today are indecent. Some say to us: "Well, what about the good shows—should we go to them, such as book reviews?" We say **no**

because those shows are always mixed up with the bad ones and are shown only by the movie people to get good people to go to their theatres once in a while, knowing that the general public will say that as long as the good people go there occasionally it is right to go all the time. Those good films are shown only to attract you there and get your presence to sanction the movie business. Remember your influence. "If meat maketh my brother to offend I will eat no meat" says the Apostle Paul. If you are unable to give up an occasional good show for Jesus Christ there certainly is something the matter with you as a Christian.

The editorial writer in that most humorous of all magazines, "Life," made the statement some time ago that censorship is not satisfactory and that the movie is far from being what it should be. How can a Christian uphold the moving picture industry by patronizing it when such startling truths are known? By the grace of God, men

and women, you who know that all the moving picture producers are after is the money; you who know that they in every case are willing to run their shows on Sunday whenever the State laws permit it; you who know that the majority of the shows are unfit for the human eye; you who are given the care and keeping of the child life of the Nation; come clean and fight this, the latest attraction of the devil!

The moving picture shows should not be patronized because most of the scenarios contain hugging and kissing scenes. You know that this is true! Practically every film has at least one so called love scene. What is the result? Simply that most movie crazy girls can be kissed "good night" the first time taken home. A kiss was once the most sacred emblem of true love but now it is just a habit! It has become so cheapened and commercialized by the movie that it is no longer a token of true affection. The ordinary girl attends the movies at the impression-

able age and seeing the actresses kiss the men, she is led to believe that she must allow such familiarity in order to keep the friendship of her boy chums and the boys have come to know this. You laugh? Friend, it is only a step from familiarity to license and one of the most direct causes for the low standard of morality in America today and for the wave of licentiousness that is sweeping our Country from Coast to Coast is the damnable familiarity taught so effectively by the modern movie. "Familiarity breeds contempt" and you can't get around it.

It is wrong to attend movies because many of the scenarios are ridiculous. Why spend fifteen or twenty cents to see a clown throw lemon pies at another fool? Why go to a movie to laugh at a man trying to crank a tin Lizzie when you can see that in any back alley or on any main street? The actors are asked to do the impossible and being unable to do it they seek to camouflage the act in such a way as to fool the public. So

it is that actors who have been killed in one reel, come to life in another, and so it goes, just like a pup chasing his tail and yet you pay good money to see such nonsense. If you are a real Christian you will be more interested in the heart throbs of the World than in the crazy actions of a fool actor in a ten cent movie. Prove all things; hold fast that which is good. **We** know that it is good to win the lost to Jesus. **Do you know it?**

Further: it is wrong to attend the movies because most of the movie "stars" are immoral. A little study on your part will show that we are right in this statement. If the newspaper reports are true, then the three greatest of all movie "stars," are in our estimation, far from being what they should be. We refer to she who was formerly Mary Pickford; her second husband, Douglas Fairbanks, and, Charlie Chaplin. Licentiousness and lust are found in the lives of most of the actors and actresses. Practically all the leading

ones have been divorced. Most of the women are more interested in poodle dogs than in children. Motherhood is a thing unknown to most married movie "stars." Friends; your children are but imitators. They will be to a great extent what circumstances make them. They will be moulded and fashioned in character by what they see and hear. A young girl who is allowed to attend the movies, soon learns to worship the actresses and whatever the actresses do, she sanctions. The result is that your little girl will be in the **future** just what her childish ideals are **now**. Character is formed in youth and you can not be too careful of every influence upon the childish life. That boy of yours, worships you, Father, and if you sanction the life of the movie star by patronizing the movie, he will when grown, be just what influence made him. Our children are our greatest asset and it behooves the thinking men and women of America to hold before them the highest forms of ideals and to protect them from the childish worship

of false heroes and heroines. The fact that many crimes have been committed by boys imitating what they have seen at the movies should in itself be sufficient proof that the modern moving picture show is dangerous to child life.

It is a proven fact that no moving picture habitant is successful as a soul winner. There is a reason for this. It is because the one who would win others to Jesus must be so wrapped up in the Christ as to live a separated life. You know that we are right when we say that those who partonize the movies are not as good Church workers as those who do not. That truth should result in keeping you away from the movie. If you are a real Christian; it will.

Some writer along psychological lines has advanced the theory that the **less brains a person has, the more amusement is required.** It is shown that a new-born baby calls for much attention but that as he grows in age he requires less and less amusement so

that when he is finally a man and able to think, no amusement is required. All that he needs is recreation. In as much as sitting in a movie theatre is not recreation and does not tend to relieve the body or brain but rather puts an added strain upon the eye, it would seem that it is to be classed with the amusements. And if that writer of the book on psychology is right, then the movie fiend is brainless and thoughtless. He may be right—he may be wrong. As far as **we** are concerned, after weighing the movie in every way, we have found it wanting. Even the fact that some Churches have done away with the preaching of the Gospel and put on movies instead, does not prove that we are wrong. There are numbskulls in the Ministry, the same as in all other lines of work. There are always some Ministers who are rattle-brained enough to do as the public demands. Judas, one of the chosen twelve, sold the Christ at the request of the public and that thing is still being done.

We are not going to answer the question as to what the young people can safely do. That subject belongs to another address. We have not the time to discuss it here. Neither are we going to take time to make much of a comment on the common expression of the young people, "We must have some place to go; we can't stay home." That expression is extremely pathetic and is in many cases true—the young people can't stay home because **they have no home!** In the average American household, Mother belongs to so many Church societies, social uplift Clubs, personal improvement organizations and lodges that **she** has no time to make the home life interesting for her family; and, Father is so engrossed in his business, clubs and conferences and cronies that **he** has no time to be at home save to eat an occasional meal and to sleep. No wonder the young people have to go some place! But the fact that they have to go to other places because they have no home life does not make the movie a safe place. We

feel sympathetic toward the young people and pray that God in heaven may have mercy upon them and upon their careless and indifferent parents.

You have listened patiently as we sought to answer satisfactorily the previous questions and now that we are at the last one we feel that you will be just as patient and we are sure that you will be just as much interested, for, we are now face to face with the question that many of you came here to hear answered. Let us take our last round with the devil tonight by answering the question:

IS IT WRONG TO DANCE?

You know that we are going to say, **yes.** And we do! We say, yes! Because you know what other Evangelists have said on this question, it will be unnecessary for us to say many things. Our aim tonight is not to rant and rave around about the dance and say things that are fiery and perform feats that

are spectacular; but it is, rather, to follow a systematic line of logical discussion so that when we are thru there will not be one here who will have a single doubt as to the right or wrong of the modern dance.

It is wrong to dance because dancing is not Scriptural. Christians take the Bible as their rule of life and every good thing in civilization has come from an observance of Biblical principles. There is not a single verse in the whole Bible to show that men and women ever danced together. It is true that dancing is frequently mentioned in the Bible; mostly in the Psalms; but not an instance is recorded where the sexes intermingled in the dance. Men danced with men and women danced with women in Biblical days, or, men danced alone and women danced alone. The dance of Biblical days was for the purpose of worship, usually, as an evidence of thankfulness to God for some specific goodness. If **you** can kneel down in the **modern dance hall**

and tell God that you are going to dance the modern steps as a means of showing Him that you are grateful for Jesus Christ, your Saviour, we are mistaken in our premise. For the real Christian, **no other argument need be made against the dance.**

We believe that it is wrong to dance because the modern dance is based wholly and solely upon sex attraction. This is proven by the fact that any dance can be killed by compelling the men to dance with the men and the women with the women. It is also a proven fact that the modern young people will not dance the "classic dances." In talks with dancing teachers in different parts of America, we have been told that fact by the teachers, themselves. It is also true that the old-fashioned square dance is not used much in these days. There is not enuf opportunity in it for personal contact. It is true, also, that married couples seldom dance to any great extent. The marriage relationships seem to remove

the necessity of the modern dance. In plain language let me say to you, young woman; **you dance to be hugged;** and to you, young man; **you dance so as to hug your partner.** That sounds blunt. Perhaps it is. At any rate it is true!

Now friends, there is nothing harmful in the natural attraction of one sex for the other. It is a God given instinct. Upon that attraction true love stands supreme and unshaken and parenthood is based. From childhood to old age that attraction of one sex for the other moulds and fashions character. He or she who claims to not be attracted by the opposite sex is an unnatural being. The modern dance has seized upon this natural action of the human being and thru a misuse of it has succeeded in bringing God's great gift into the slime of sinful practices.

There is not a dancing girl before us tonight that is honest but who will admit that to be embraced by a young

man in the modern dance, sends a thrill thru her whole being and produces a result that cannot be brot about in any other way. There is not an honest young man here but who will admit that as he embraces his partner in the modern dance, feelings surge thru his being that cannot be described. Therefore, whether or not you have thot about it before, the real reason you dance is because you feel the thrill of the opposite sex in a manner that no other action save marriage can produce. Now, God has so planned things that it is not His purpose that men and women should abuse any of His gifts and has ordained it that any who do must **suffer the consequences**. When you overeat you get indigestion. When you overwork, you become excessively fatigued. An abuse of any organ of the body spells disaster. So it is with the God given attraction of one sex for the other. Overwork that gift and failure is spelled for you. The modern dance so abuses that natural attraction of one sex for the other as to produce the most disastrous re-

sults, such as gross immorality, sensuality, licentiousness and other forms of uncontrolled lust. Prove all things; hold fast that which is good. Think this matter over and you will agree with us that it is wrong to dance because it abuses the natural attraction of one unmarried person for another.

We believe that it is wrong to dance because the modern dance is immoral. Take the "waltz" for example. It was introduced in the year 1627 by a citizen of Paris, France, named Gault. This man was so immoral that after being found guilty of committing a crime against his own sister, he was guillotined. The waltz has practically been unchanged since that time. If anything, it has grown to be more voluptuous. Ask yourself the question Jesus once asked: "Do men gather grapes of thorns, or figs of thistles?" "By their fruits ye shall know them" is as true today as ever. Think you that any good can come from the brothels of Paris? **No, a thousand times, no!** Then

we must say that it is wrong to dance; at least as far as the modern waltz is concerned.

Next, take the "one step." This is one of the most popular dances. What about its origin? It too, was born in the slums of Paris, moved to the tenderloin district of New York; finally found its way into the red light districts of the Pacific Coast and is now danced by those who call themselves Christians! In the name of Christ, Christians, think! Prove all things; hold fast that which is good. It is a comparatively easy thing to prove that the dance is bad because it is immoral. All we need to do is to ask for statistics regarding the number of fallen women in the United States. From reliable statistics secured from various sources, we are able to say without fear of successful contradiction, that **four-fifths of the prostitutes fell as a result of the dance!** Think of it; four out of every five of the fallen women of America have gone down because of the dance

and yet some people who call themselves Christians try to uphold the amusement! Surely they must be blind or under **satanic control**! It is a fact admitted by all who have studied the subject, that all prostitutes are good dancers. The reason is, that to dance well, the whole body must be yielded to the partner. Because of this, beginners who are naturally modest, are not as good dancers as those who have stifled all the finer feelings and who yield every portion of their body to their partner in the round dance. Modesty and good dancing do not, can not, go together.

We believe that it is wrong to dance because the modern dance is physically wrong. In proving this point we first quote another: Dr. Winfield Scott Hall in his book entitled: "Sex Training in the Home" who says on page 101 of that book: "The modern one step, hesitation and tango are suggestive and seductive; while the fox trot, turkey trot, bunny hug, etc., are abominable."

Remember that Evangelists are frequently accused by brainless people, the devil's agents, with preaching against the dance for pecuniary reasons, but we have just quoted you a statement from one of the **foremost and eminent authorities of the whole Medical World and one who has never been referred to as being fanatical along religious lines.** Some of the dances mentioned in that statement are out of date now. More damnable steps have been devised than those. The dancers now "shimmy" and dance the "cat step" and go thru exactly the same contortions as those who invented the hellish things must when they attempt to walk over the red hot brimstones in hell itself! The modern dance is wrong because it tends to the keeping of late hours. You rarely ever hear of a dance ending before midnight and most of them continue until the sun begins to rise. Indeed, the dance, we have been told, goes better, that is, faster and more hellish and enjoyable, **after** twelve o'clock than **before.** And we believe

it! To any one who understands the needs of the human body in the way of rest, relaxation, sleep; the dance is condemned. We believe that the dance is wrong because the rooms are rarely ever properly ventilated. This is as true of the private dance in the home as it is of the one held on the public ball room floor. Fresh air must be breathed if one is to enjoy perfect health and we are certain that it can not be found as well at the dance as in a morning stroll in God's great outdoors.

The modern dance is not physically right because of the position assumed in it and because of the modern dance music. Photographs of Mr. and Mrs. Vernon Castle as reproduced in the February 1919 issue of "Everybody's Magazine" show it to be true. They were the recognized model dancers of the World. They were the dancers who excited the envy of all other dancers and who served as examples for multitudes of ambitious beginners. An investigation of the positions assumed in

your own City on the public ball room floor and on the private dance floor, will prove it. The modern dance can best be described as a competition in bunny hugging. Note that we do not differentiate between the public dance and the private dance because the same steps are danced in each case. If I were to embrace, immediately after being introduced to you tonight, one of you girls the way you allow the young men to embrace you after a cursory introduction on a ball room floor, either public or private, this crowd would mob me and I would be picked up tomorrow morning on a blotter by your Chief of Police! And it would serve me right! What I want to know is; why is it right to do it on the ball room floor at a public dance and wrong at a revival meeting in a Church? There is only **one** answer. **It is wrong in both places and you know it!**

People say to us: "I can dance and it does not hurt me." All I have to say is that any man who can embrace a girl

who wears less clothes than a louse; hold her close to his breast; feel her hot breath on his cheek; feel her arms about his neck and dance the modern steps in an overheated room to that alluring, syncopated, hypnotic jazz music, in the presence of voluptuous couples as they roll by in a steady stream, **is not human! There is something the matter with him!** If he were a man with the passions of a man he would fall whether he wanted to or not! I repeat it in the presence of God Almighty, **a real red blooded man or woman can not dance the modern dance and not fall!** It is contrary to human nature! I do not distinguish here between the public dance and the private dance, either, because while you can chaperon the **steps** at a private dance, you **can not chaperon the human thought.** And—no one will dance the properly chaperoned steps because to chaperon the dance means that you rob it of its very life; you take from it the sensual pleasure which is the very heart of the modern dance. But, in case you do not agree

with me, let me use an illustration to answer your argument.

I have on this pulpit, in your sight, two bottles filled with a clear, white liquid. One on the right; the other on the left. One bottle contains a ninety-five per cent solution of carbolic acid. It is a deadly poison. The other bottle contains pure water. It is harmless. Both bottles **look alike**. You cannot tell one from the other. **I challenge you; you who take a chance on the ball room floor! Come on down the aisle and take a drink from one of the bottles! Come on; come on; come on and take a drink!** One is absolutely harmless. One is a deadly poison. You do not know which one contains water and which one contains poison, but **come on!** You **could** take a drink out of the one filled with water and live. Why don't you come? Why don't you take a chance? What—you say you are not a **fool**? You say that only a **fool** would take **that** chance? You are right! But notice; the chances are evenly divided

in **this case**—they are fifty fifty but in the case of the **dance the chances are four to one that you will fall!** And yet you take the chance with the dance! My God, what is the matter with you; can't you **see** that it is wrong to dance? **Now, right now,** you Christians take your stand against the dance, take your stand against the whole damnable business; stand up and show me that you **know it is wrong to dance.** And you who have been dancing in the past but will now give it up, come on down the aisle and prove to the World that you will, by the grace of God, give up that deadly amusement. Come on—don't wait, come on —————.

The end.

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